

# Wessex Adult Acute Kidney Injury Care Pathway for Primary Care

## What is AKI?

AKI refers to any sudden decline in kidney function and is most often seen during episodes of acute illness. It is defined in terms of the proportional rise in serum creatinine from baseline and staged by severity as follows:

- **AKI Stage 1:** Increase in serum creatinine 1.5 - 1.9 times baseline  
Or increase by  $\geq 26\mu\text{mol/l}$  in <48 hours
- **AKI Stage 2:** Increase in serum creatinine 2 - 3 times baseline
- **AKI Stage 3:** Increase in serum creatinine >3 times baseline or to >354

## 1

### Risk Assessment

Consider who is at risk.

#### General factors

- Age >65
- CKD at baseline
- History of previous AKI
- Falls with long-lie

#### Comorbid illnesses

- Diabetes
- Vascular disease
- Heart / liver disease
- Malignancy

#### Medications/toxins

- ACE / ARBs
- NSAIDs
- Diuretics
- Recent contrast

Code all confirmed AKI episodes in primary care records to highlight risk

## 2

### Prevention

In all at risk patients.

- Review need for nephrotoxic medications and consider safer alternatives.
- Educate the patient and carer about risk of dehydration during acute illness.
- Educate patients to seek help/advice early in the event of acute illness.
- During acute illness:
  - Review medication that could be adjusted or temporarily stopped if clinically appropriate, e.g. diuretics, ACE inhibitors, NSAIDs, etc.
  - Check hydration and consider checking serum creatinine and electrolytes.
  - Monitor for deterioration.

**Beware of sepsis and intervene early in at risk patients**

## 3

### Management

When AKI is suspected either clinically or through an e-alert.

- Continue to apply above measures.
- Perform urine dipstick and send MSU.
- Patients with AKI stage 1 may not need admission but repeat bloods in 24-48 hours to assess progress.

#### Think **STOP**

Sepsis  
Toxicity  
Obstruction  
Parenchymal disease

#### Seek Help / Advice

Discuss with the local Medical Assessment Unit:

- All unwell patients who warrant admission regardless of AKI stage.
- All patients with AKI stage 2 and 3 episodes.
- All patients with urine dipstick positive for blood and protein in the absence of UTI regardless of AKI stage.